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 FM THE SECRETARY OF STATE//HAKTO00//

TO THE SITUATION ROOM

UNCLAS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

HAKTO 00 APRIL 24, 1976

FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: JOCK COVEY

THE SECRETARY HAS REVIEWED AND APPROVED THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY QUESTIONS/ANSWERS.

BEGIN TEXT:

PRESIDENTIAL Q'S AND A'S
 ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO AFRICA.

Q. MR. PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE SENT SECRETARY KISSINGER TO AFRICA FOR A VISIT TO SEVEN COUNTRIES. COULD YOU TELL US WHAT YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY THIS TRIP?

A. BOTH THE SECRETARY AND I HAVE WANTED HIM TO VISIT AFRICA FOR SOME TIME NOW. THE TRIP IS BEING MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DESIRE I HAVE HAD FROM THE BEGINNING OF MY ADMINISTRATION, ONE OF A DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH AFRICA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN INTEGRATED POLICY. I AM CONVINCED THE TRIP WILL MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO US-AFRICAN RELATIONS.

Q. SOME PEOPLE ARE SAYING THE SECRETARY IS MAKING THIS TRIP IN RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET-CUBAN VICTORY IN ANGOLA.

A. THE SECRETARY HAS WANTED TO VISIT AFRICA SINCE LATE 1974 AND THE TIMING IS NOT CONNECTED WITH ANY PARTICULAR SITUATION, CERTAINLY NOT THE TRAGIC ONE IN ANGOLA.

Q. MR. PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY INDICATED IN THAT SPEECH

*****WHHR COMMENT*****

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THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD URGE THE CONGRESS TO REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT. THERE HAS BEEN SOME CRITICISM BY THOSE WHO FAVOR REPEAL THAT THE WHITE HOUSE HAS NOT BEEN WILLING TO PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN REPEAL EFFORTS. DOES THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH MEAN THAT THE ATTITUDE WILL CHANGE?

A. SINCE THE VERY FIRST DAYS OF MY ADMINISTRATION I HAVE EXPRESSED MY OPPOSITION TO THE BYRD AMENDMENT. WE HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS URGED THE CONGRESS AND WORKED WITH THEM IN ORDER TO GET REPEAL LEGISLATION THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE AND THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE OUR POSTURE.

Q. IF THE UNITED STATES REPEALS THE BYRD AMENDMENT WON'T THIS MEAN WE WILL HAVE TO RELY ON THE SOVIET UNION FOR CHROME?

A. THE SOVIET UNION IS A TRADITIONAL SUPPLIER OF CHROME TO THE US AND THAT RELATIONSHIP DID NOT CHANGE WITH THE BYRD AMENDMENT. IN ADDITION THERE ARE OTHER SOURCES OF CHROME WE CAN DRAW UPON. IN ADDITION, THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA BY MOZAMBIQUE, THUS CLOSING RHODESIA'S ACCESS TO THE MOZAMBIQUE PORTS, RAISES THE QUESTION AS TO THE AVAILABILITY IN THE FUTURE OF RHODESIAN CHROME UNTIL THE RHODESIAN QUESTION IS SOLVED.

Q. DOES THE RHODESIA SECTION OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SMITH AND THE RHODESIA NATIONALISTS?

A. AS THE SECRETARY HAS SAID, QUESTIONS SUCH AS RHODESIA ARE AFRICAN QUESTIONS AND THEY REQUIRE AFRICAN SOLUTIONS. THE UNITED STATES IS PRESENTLY URGING THE PARTIES TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. AS FAR AS RHODESIA IS CONCERNED THE SECRETARY ENDORSED THE CALLAGHAN PLAN, BUT THIS IS CERTAINLY A MATTER FOR THE BRITISH ALONG WITH THE RHODESIANS OF BOTH RACES AND THE NEIGHBORING STATES.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PROVIDE ARMS ASSISTANCE FOR RHODESIAN GUERRILLAS. WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT?

A. NONE OF THE AFRICAN LEADERS HAS ASKED FOR US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS. OUR COMMITMENT TO LEND SUPPORT TO MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA IS A FIRM COMMITMENT AND WE WILL KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE BRITISH AND WITH THE NEIGHBORING AFRICAN STATES TO SEE WHAT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MEASURES WILL BE EFFECTIVE. WE WILL FOCUS ATTENTION ON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH

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THIRD PARTIES AND SEE NO POSSIBILITY OF GIVING WEAPONS TO RHODESIAN LIBERATION FORCES. HOWEVER, WE WANT TO AVOID ANOTHER ANGOLA AND WOULD HAVE TO TAKE A SECOND LOOK IF WE SAW SUCH A SITUATION DEVELOPING.

Q. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON THE ADMINISTRATION WILL COMMUNICATE CLEARLY AND DIRECTLY WITH SMITH SO THAT HE WILL UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION. SINCE WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE RHODESIA HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO THIS?

A. WELL, OF COURSE WE HAVE VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT SEND A MESSAGE TO MR. SMITH AND I WOULD NOT WANT TO GO BEYOND THAT EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THE SECRETARY AND I WILL BE LOOKING INTO THIS QUESTION UPON HIS RETURN.

Q. IN HIS SPEECH SECRETARY KISSINGER REFERS TO SUCH THINGS AS AID FOR REFUGEES FROM RHODESIA, AID TO COUNTRIES LIKE MOZAMBIQUE AND ZAMBIA FOR CLOSING THEIR BORDERS, AND TRIPLING OUR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. WON'T THESE PROGRAMS HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON YOUR EFFORTS TO HOLD THE BUDGET?

A. SOME OF THE ASSISTANCE THE SECRETARY REFERS TO, SUCH AS THE TRIPLING OF FUNDS IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA ARE REFLECTIONS OF BUDGET PLANS. OTHER INITIATIVES WILL COME OUT OF APPROPRIATIONS ALREADY RECEIVED FROM CONGRESS BUT CERTAINLY WE WILL BE LOOKING AT NEW PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE WHEN THE SECRETARY RETURNS.

Q. MR. PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY IN HIS SPEECH TALKED ABOUT LETTING BYGONES BE BYGONES AND USHERING IN A NEW ERA IN OUR AFRICAN POLICY. WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT?

A. AS I STATED EARLIER, I HAVE BEEN INTENT DURING MY ADMINISTRATION ON IMPROVING US RELATIONS WITH AFRICA AND ON DESIGNING AN INTEGRATED POLICY FOR AFRICA. THE SECRETARY'S TRIP, THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS HE WILL BE HAVING WITH THE LEADERS HE WILL MEET, AND HIS SPEECH IN LUSAKA ARE A NEW BEGINNING, AND, AS THE SECRETARY SAID "A MESSAGE OF COMMITMENT AND COOPERATION."

Q. SECRETARY KISSINGER SAW MR. NKOMO OF ONE OF THE FACTIONS OF THE RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS IN LUSAKA APRIL 27. DOES THAT SIGNAL THE US IS TAKING SIDES IN RHODESIA?

A. THE UNITED STATES UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES HAS NO INTENTION OF TAKING SIDES. WE HOPE THE RHODESIAN MAJORITY CAN BE UNITED AND I AM ENCOURAGED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REPORT TO ME THAT HE FINDS THIS SENTIMENT FOR UNITY AMONG

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AFRICAN LEADERS. THIS MEETING WITH NKOMO HAS NO
SIGNIFICANCE OUTSIDE THE FACT IT IS A PART OF
THE SECRETARY'S FACT-FINDING EFFORTS DURING HIS TRIP.

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